



DATE: November 26, 2021
TO: Skagway Traditional Council
FROM: Judean Gordon
SEARHC Board Representative
SUBJECT: SEARHC Board and Committee Meetings, November 17-19, 2021

The SEARHC Board of Directors (Board) held a successful in-person meeting November 17, 18, and 19, 2021 in Juneau, Alaska. The quarterly meeting was held in the new 2S Board Room which offers more space and up-to-date technology.

Accreditation Governing Body Committee (AGB)

The AGB Committee, who has oversight of the SEARHC clinics and hospitals, kicked off the meeting week on Wednesday, November 17.

The AGB heard and approved the Consortium-wide Credentials Report. This report includes new medical staff appointments and reappointments, changes in privilege requests, and closed files for medical staff no longer providing services at SEARHC. The Committee also approved the Providence TeleICU TeleStroke Provider Roster, vRad Credentials List, 2022 Infection Control Plan, 2022 Performance Improvement Plan, and the SEARHC Compliance Plan.

The Committee reviewed and approved the publication of two studies—“Hospitalizations Associated with Rheumatic Disease in Alaska, 2015-2018” by Drs. Elizabeth Ferucci and Peter Hock; and “Secondary Analyses of Clinical Trial Data to Understand Factors Associated with Alcohol Use Among Alaska Native Populations” authored by Dr. Maria Crouch, PhD.

Under the Leadership Report, the Senior Vice President/Chief Medical Officer (SVP/CMO) highlighted program expansions, including the Juneau Mountainside Urgent Care, which opened for business in July 2021. The well-received facility is open to all residents of Juneau and currently sees approximately 20 patients a day.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, November 17 and conducted its regular business of approving the agenda and meeting minutes from July 21, 2021.

The President/CEO reported on some highlights from across the Consortium that included the Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center (MEMC) replacement project, property improvements in Craig and Klawock, property purchases, and schedule of events for the Spring meeting in Sitka.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed moving to the full Board the amended Proposed FY2022 Meeting Calendar.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met the morning of Thursday, November 18, 2021. The Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer (SVP/CFO) reviewed the year-end financial report that included summarized volumes, revenues, expenses, cash flow, collection, A/R days, income statement variance, and payor mix.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed to the full Board Resolution 2022-01 *Authorization to Purchase State of Alaska Department of Education Property (Sitka)*.

Patient Experience Committee

The Patient Experience Committee met the afternoon of November 18, 2021. The Committee conducted its regular business of reviewing the agenda and approving the minutes from the July 22, 2021 meeting.

The Committee staffing transitioned from the Senior Vice President/Chief Medical Officer (SVP/CMO) to the Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer (SVP/COO) this quarter. The SVP/COO began the Patient Experience Update by introducing Sherry Patterson, Director of Patient Experience. The Committee heard an update on the program's focus and responsibilities, 2022 goals, and an overview of the new survey tool which consists of four questions with two comment fields. The Board expressed concerns relating to travel, patient escort guidelines, patient departure summaries, staff turnover, and the MyHealth portal.

The Committee heard about efforts to address housing, travel, and appointment issues from Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) representatives Valerie Davidson, President; Dr. Bob Onders, Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Administrator; and Crystal Duncan, Regional ANTHC Liaison for SEARHC. Ms. Duncan reviewed her role and responsibilities that include improving communication between SEARHC and ANTHC relating to patient care, appointments, housing, and travel. Ms. Duncan can be reached at crystal.d@searhc.org or 907.966.8772.

The Board's role in Patient Experience was the educational topic for this quarter. Karma Bass, Via Healthcare, gave an overview of the Board's unique role in supporting the organization's mission and ensuring the highest quality patient care for our beneficiaries and communities.

Board of Directors

The Board met on Friday, November 19. Board members approved the July 23, 2021 minutes, the Consent Agenda, moved to seat Jan Hill, Chilkoot Indian Association on the Board, and heard reports from the Board Chair, President/CEO, SVP/CFO and held annual elections.

The Senior Vice President/Chief Legal Officer (SVP/CLO) shared the credentials report and Jan Hill, Chilkoot Indian Association was seated. Ms. Hill replaces Harriet Brouillette as the Haines representative.

A Centers for Disease Control (CDC) video featuring the SEARHC Women's Health Breast and

Cervical Cancer Program’s screening team was shown. The video is a part of the 30th anniversary of the program that offers screenings to low-income and under-insured women in all 50 states.

The Board held annual officer elections with the following results: Kimberley Strong, Chair; Judean Gordon, Vice Chair; Lavina Brock, Secretary; Harriet Silva, Treasurer; Annette Bennet, Member-At-Large; June Durgan, Member-At-Large; Veronica Dalton, Member-At-Large; Kimberley Strong, ANTHC Primary Representative; James Jack, Sr., ANTHC Alternate Representative; Patty Cottle, ANHB Representative; Dorothy Smith, ANHB Alternate Representative.

The Board Chair reviewed highlights from the written report that included Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) work sessions, participation in the bond application, the yearly audit, and provided some facility updates.

The ANTHC representative gave this quarter’s update highlighting strategic planning, negotiating the contract for President Davidson, crafting an incentive matrix for the President, and continued advocacy for patient travel, case management, and equipment replacement.

The President/CEO reviewed highlights from the written report that encompassed staffing changes and new hires, COVID-19 vaccination efforts, program updates, the MEMC replacement project, land acquisitions, and Specialty Care clinics. Behavioral Health Services will open a full-spectrum opioid treatment program in the Front Street Clinic in January 2022. In Sitka, SEARHC, in partnership with the Indian Health Service, will be working on a film to capture the history of the Mt. Edgecumbe community. This historical project is a requirement of the Memorandum of Agreement, and the film will focus on past residents and community elders’ historical summaries of what it was like living and working on Japonski Island.

The Board heard a report on strategic planning meetings through the year from Karma Bass, Via Healthcare, and approved the Draft 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.

The SVP/CFO reviewed the income statement year-end report, noting that the Consortium had a strong financial quarter, and that October was a record cash flow month. The SVP/CFO reported that SEARHC received an assignment of an “A-” long-term rating with a stable outlook from the bond rating companies S&P Global and Fitch Ratings. Bonds with A ratings are investment-grade, meaning banks can hold them and they are considered low-risk and low-return. The stable outlook reflects the belief that SEARHC will sustain its existing financial strengths with various revenue streams remaining stable.

Key accomplishments from the November 2021 Board meeting include:

- Approval of the Consortium-wide Credentials List
- Approval of the Providence TeleICU Telestroke Provider Roster

- Approval of vRad Credentials List
- Approval of the 2022 Infection Control Plan
- Approval of the 2022 Performance Improvement Plan
- Approval of the SEARHC Compliance Plan
- Approved publication of two studies: “Hospitalizations Associated with Rheumatic Disease in Alaska, 2015-2018 by Drs. Elizabeth Ferucci and Peter Hock; and “Secondary Analyses of Clinical Trial Data to Understand Factors Associated with Alcohol Use Among Alaska Native Populations” authored by Dr. Maria Crouch, PhD.
- Elections
 - Kimberley Strong was unanimously re-elected Chair
 - Judean Gordon, Skagway, was elected Vice Chair
 - Lavina Brock, Wrangell, was unanimously re-elected Secretary
 - Harriet Silva, Angoon, was unanimously re-elected Treasurer
 - Annette Bennett, Petersburg, was elected Member-At-Large, Seat 1
 - June Durgan, Craig, was elected Member-At-Large, Seat 2
 - Veronica Dalton, Hoonah, was elected Member-At-Large, Seat 3
 - Kimberley Strong, Klukwan, was re-elected ANTHC Primary Representative
 - James Jack, Sr., was elected ANTHC Alternate Representative
 - Patty Cottle, Klawock, was elected ANHB Primary Representative
 - Dorothy Smith, Kasaan, was elected ANHB Alternate Representative
- Approval of Resolution 2022-01
- Approval of the Strategic Plan 2022-2024
- Approval of the Proposed 2022 Meeting Calendar

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you on the SEARHC Board and invite you to contact me if you have any questions. Again, thank you for your continual support of SEARHC’s important Mission: ***Alaska Native People working in partnership to provide the best healthcare for our communities.***

The Winter Board meeting is scheduled for January 27 and 28, in Juneau, Alaska.